

# News Notes

of the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors

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## Quaker CO fired from Senate job

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### Signed alternatives letter

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William R. Martin, 21, was dismissed from his job early in May as assistant to the Republican Minority secretary of the U. S. Senate. As chairman of the Washington Young Friends group, his name appeared on a letter sent to 22,000 high school students in the nation's capitol advising them of the C.O. provisions in the draft law and offering information and help to those interested. Shortly after *The Washington Post* carried the story of the Quaker youth letter, the Republican personnel committee met and asked for Martin's resignation. He was told that he could hold any views he wanted but that he should not make them public. Members of the Senate personnel committee are Senators Styles Bridges (New Hampshire), Margaret Chase Smith (Maine), and John M. Butler (Maryland).

According to Martin the letter merely set forth the position held for 300 years by the Religious Society of Friends. He denied the letter was an effort to make up the minds of students. He said the letter was intended "to stimulate them to consider their responsibilities as young people trying to help rid the world of war." J. Mark Trice, secretary to the Senate Republican minority, stated that young Martin had been warned a year ago about similar public statements. After this rash of publicity the personnel committee asked him to resign. When Martin refused, he was dismissed and relieved of his duties immediately, but continued on the payroll until June 1.

Friends of William Martin have appealed to the Republican Senators to reverse the decision of the personnel committee and to support Martin's right to hold religious beliefs and to act on them. An estimated 20 senators were interviewed with many expressing sympathy. Vice-President Richard Nixon, also a Quaker, declined to intervene on Martin's behalf.

The controversial letter reminded the high school student that he owed it to himself to think about the kind of training he will be given in the armed forces. "... you surrender many basic freedoms of thought and action when you take the induction oath. If you think it is

undiplomatic to disagree with some of your teachers, just try arguing with your superior officers, once you have been inducted!" The letter then stated that "The main purpose of this authoritarian control is to overcome your human reluctance to kill. This is an unpleasant fact and efforts have been made to supercoat this pill. But the facts are that you will be shown how to plunge a bayonet into the flesh of another human being, how to break his throat with your bare hands. You will be trained to drop a bomb on a target that may turn out to be a home or a school, how to detonate an atomic or hydrogen bomb that may wipe out 400 square miles of human habitation with millions of lives."

The letter suggested that there is another way to settle conflicts between nations — the way of conscientious objection. It reminded the student that "your pleas for peace are always questionable so long as you yourself are ready to participate in war."

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### Army discharges Satterwhite

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After serving five weeks in the post stockade at Fort Dix, New Jersey, Frank Satterwhite, 24, Berkeley, California, was given an undesirable discharge from the Army. Satterwhite, a Quaker, had been courtmartialed and sentenced to six months imprisonment for refusing to obey an officer. (NEWS NOTES, March-April, 1960) Before refusing all cooperation Satterwhite had tried twice to secure a discharge on grounds of conscientious objection to war. Both applications were denied. He felt he had no alternative but to obey his conscience and refuse further military orders.

Satterwhite reports that he was treated well during his brief confinement, although he was kept in segregation. He was allowed all the books he wanted, and each week he could have three visitors and write three letters with no limit on incoming mail. Satterwhite informed stockade authorities that his conscience would not permit him to perform any work that would aid the Army. He was never ordered to perform "hard labor" as part of his sentence. "I never felt freer than when in the stockade," said Satterwhite following his release.

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## Quaker wins Marine discharge

The U. S. Marine Corps has honorably discharged Samuel Bishop, 26-year-old C.O., Chappaqua, New York, from further Marine reserve duty. Bishop enlisted in the Marines at the age of 18 for six months active duty followed by several years reserve duty.

During college his thinking changed. Last year he joined the Religious Society of Friends. In December he informed the commanding officer of his reserve unit that he could no longer perform any type of military duty. Officers tried to persuade him that he could serve as a noncombatant. Then he was threatened with orders assigning him to active duty. Bishop applied for an honorable discharge for convenience of the Government. While the discharge application was pending, he reported for weekend drills and performed noncombatant duty with the Intelligence unit to which he was assigned. Bishop's commanding officer finally recommended discharge on the ground that Bishop had served six years and eight months in the reserve, and that he no longer held the respect of his military contemporaries due to his convictions, and that he objects to any and all military service.

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## Absolutist Sentenced to year

Robert E. McGrath, 22-year-old absolutist was sentenced May 19 in Federal district court in Cedar Rapids, Iowa to one year imprisonment. McGrath originally had sought C.O. classification but last fall returned his draft card to his local board and later refused to report for induction (NEWS NOTES, March-April, 1960).

At his trial on May 2 McGrath refused the services of an attorney and largely refused to cooperate or participate in the trial, although he did strike the first ten jurors in the order they were chosen. The jury was out an hour and a half before returning a verdict of guilty. In pronouncing sentence the judge refused probation because McGrath would have to agree to obey all U. S. laws, which he had not been willing to do in respect to Selective Service.

Several of Robert McGrath's friends and supporters distributed handbills in front of the Federal building calling attention to the trial of conscience taking place. The closing paragraph stated "Robert McGrath is being robbed of his physical freedom by the State. But he is exercising, hence preserving, a much greater freedom than the unfeeling machinery of the State can not touch—the freedom of the spirit. He is acting in behalf of all men everywhere who would be free in both body and spirit. The act of conscription is a failure on the part of the State to preserve the very reason for its existence. It is now up to Robert McGrath and men like him. It is now up to us to keep freedom from vanishing from the earth; the freedom to love instead of hate, the freedom to create instead of destroy.

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## Briefly noted

Thirty per cent of 1,000 teen-aged boys questioned in depth during a two-year survey voiced strong opinions against being drafted into the armed forces, stating "I will not be drafted." Half of the remaining youths interviewed said they wanted to enlist, and the other half said they would go into the military if they had to. The survey was conducted by the Boys Clubs of America in 100 United States communities.

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An Iowa World War I statute barring C.O.'s from civil service positions has finally been repealed. The Iowa Attorney General, in an advisory opinion, held that the denial of the right to hold office to one who is "conscientiously by training and belief opposed to war" constituted a religious test within the meaning of the Iowa State constitutional provision prohibiting such tests.

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One week after being sentenced to prison for three years for refusing to report to civilian work, ADEN MILLER, a Millersburg, Ohio Amishman, changed his mind and agreed to serve as an orderly in the Wooster, Ohio Community Hospital. Federal Judge Paul Jones voided the prison sentence.

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KORE K. KANAGY, another Amish C.O. from Belleville, Pennsylvania, agreed to perform civilian work in a Harrisburg hospital after being indicted by a Federal Grand Jury for work refusal. Federal Judge Frederick Follmer, sitting at Williamsport, Pennsylvania, dismissed the charges against Kanagy.

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A revised edition of DETAILS OF THE COMPULSORY WORK PROGRAM has recently been released by AFSC-C.O. Services. This mimeographed memorandum includes detailed information on Selective Service Regulations and procedures affecting the C.O. who is expecting to perform civilian work in lieu of military duty. Copies may be ordered from C.O. Services, American Friends Service Committee, 20 South 12th Street, Philadelphia 7, or from CCCO.

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The FRIENDS PEACE COMMITTEE in Philadelphia has openings for one, possibly two, youth workers beginning this fall. Job qualifications: male, 21-28, religious objector to war, liberal pacifist, sympathy with Friends peace testimony. One will work with young people 12-25 of all backgrounds, speaking, organizing conferences, etc. The second worker will work with college-age students. C.O.'s may offer as alternative draft duty. For further

information write George Hardin, FPC, 1520 Race Street, Philadelphia 3.

The California State Supreme Court, in an unanimous decision last February, knocked out all California criminal registration ordinances. JOHN ABBOTT, 48-year-old carpenter and World War II C.O. brought a test suit against the City of Los Angeles which had forced him to register under that city's criminal registration ordinance as a result of his conviction in 1943 for failure to remain in a civilian public service camp. The court decision invalidates more than 25 similar ordinances in Southern California and bars municipalities in that state from adopting regulations requiring ex-criminals to register with police officials.

KARL MEYER, 22, son of Representative William H. Meyer of Vermont, was sentenced May 16 to 20 days in jail for refusal to report for psychiatric counsel as ordered by the court. This is the third time in recent weeks that Meyer had been sentenced to jail for violating a federal court order. Federal Judge Walter J. LaBuy first gave him three days and then later another 15 days in jail for distributing handbills in the Chicago Federal Court building to protest the imprisonment of Eroeseanna Robinson and calling upon others to refuse to pay income taxes for war.

After the third arrest Meyer's co-worker, TERRY SULLIVAN, distributed some of the same handbills in the federal building and was promptly arrested and sentenced to 30 days in jail by Federal Judge Joseph Sam Perry. Both are in Cook County jail.

## Rhode Island CO convicted

William W. Hart, Jr., 23-year-old C.O. from Woonsocket, Rhode Island, was sentenced to jail April 1 for refusing induction into the Army. Federal Judge Edward Day sentenced Hart to seven months imprisonment. Hart's claim for a C.O. classification was denied by Selective Service on the ground that his objection to military service was not on grounds of religious training and belief as required by the draft law.

When Hart filled out the special questionnaire for C.O.'s he stated that he did not believe in a Supreme Being. The draft law definition of religious training and belief includes belief in a Supreme Being. The state appeal board upheld Hart's I-A classification and refused to send his appeal to the Department of Justice for further investigation. Hart bases his objection to military duty primarily on common sense. The draft law does not recognize such personal views.

Employed in the field of electronics, Hart stated that he had been classified I-O and would have insisted on the right to continue in his chosen vocation. He recognized that electronics is closely tied in with the military but feels that he should be allowed to contribute his skilled efforts to the benefit of the civilian community.

## Judge frees hunger striker

Eroeseanna Robinson, Chicago tax protestor, was released from Federal prison after serving only 93 days of a year and one day sentence. She had been sentenced by Federal Judge Edwin A. Robson last February for contempt of court charges resulting from her refusal to give information about her finances to the Internal Revenue Service. (NEWS NOTES, March-April, 1960)

Judge Robson ordered the prisoner released from the Federal reformatory for women at Alderson, West Virginia on grounds that she had been punished enough and had become a burden on the medical facilities at the prison. Eroeseanna Robinson began to fast last January 26 when confined in Cook County jail in Chicago. She continued her fast at Alderson and prison officials had to force feed her through nasal tube three times daily. Throughout her stay at Alderson Miss Robinson refused all cooperation with the prison system and thereby was denied visitors and received practically no mail. She spent the first 27 days at Alderson in solitary confinement. When released from prison Miss Robinson was in good spirits. During the long fast she daily engaged in prayer, medication, reading, and physical exercise. The week of Sis Robinson's release seven men and two women sympathizers had been fasting and demonstrating outside the gate of the prison at Alderson. One day they marched along the railroad tracks bordering the prison and were greeted with friendly and encouraging support from many of the other women prisoners. Prison authorities appeared uneasy over the demonstration and resulting publicity. They were at Alderson to greet Sis Robinson the day she was freed.

## Paratrooper gets discharge

Frank Rodden, 22, San Angelo, Texas, was discharged from the Army in April as unadaptable for military duty because of his conscientious objection to war. Rodden volunteered for paratrooper service and was transferred to Germany where he served as a chaplain's assistant, directing the choir and playing the organ. He was relieved from his duties as chaplain's assistant shortly after he informed his commanding officer of his C.O. position. Rodden stated that his objection to war was based essentially on humanitarian grounds, but that he sees only a fine line between humanitarian and religious objections. "When the ends of America and the ends of humanity clash, I owe my first allegiance to humanity."

**By definition, a government has no conscience; sometimes it has a policy, but nothing more."**

**— Albert Camus**



## Civil defense protests grow

Twenty-six objectors to civil defense were arrested at City Hall Park during New York City's civil defense drill May 3. Over 500 men, women, and children participated in the direct action protest. When the first sirens began to blow, a handful of people left the park. Assistant Chief of the auxiliary police Henry Hearn climbed a bench and ordered the group to disperse and take shelter in surrounding buildings. His request was greeted with boos. In desperation he announced that all were under arrest. More boos. Police officers began to make arrests on the outskirts of the crowd. The crowd closed ranks singing "We Shall Not Be Moved" and "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." The police were helpless before the friendly disciplined demonstration as children continued to play on the grass. The police appeared not to have any heart in their job; they seemed glad when the 15-minute drill was over.

All but one of those arrested in City Hall Park entered pleas of guilty before Magistrate Edward D. Caiazzo who lectured them on the importance of obeying the law. The following Friday the 11 women and 15 men were each sentenced to five days in jail.

This highly successful demonstration was planned by the Civil Defense Protest Committee with Dr. Robert Gilmore as chairman and A. J. Muste, treasurer. A committee of mothers played a major role in bringing mothers out to the park. Among the sponsors of the protest were Norman Mailer, Dr. Seymour Melman, Dr. James T. Shotwell, and Rowland Watts.

Elsewhere over 1,000 college and high school students in New York City protested the drill and many refused to take cover despite threats of expulsion. In Haverstraw, New York six persons were arrested and each fined \$25 or five days in jail; four chose jail. At Princeton, New Jersey, one Princeton and one University of Pennsylvania student refused to take cover and were found guilty of violating New Jersey's civil defense law. Each was fined \$5 plus \$10 court costs. Six Drew Seminary students in Madison, New Jersey were arrested and await trial.

What distinguishes war is, not that man is slain, but that he is slain, spoiled, crushed by the cruelty, the injustice, the treachery, the murderous hand of man.

— William Ellery Channing

"War is a damnable, filthy thing and has destroyed civilization after civilization — that is the essence of my beliefs." Philip Noel-Baker, 1959 Nobel Peace Prize winner.

## The court reporter

### Prosecutions

Sentenced since last issue

- 4-1-60 William W. Hart, Jr., seven months (Providence, R. I.) Judge Edward Day, refusal to report for induction.
- 5-19-60 Robert E. McGrath, one year (Cedar Rapids, Iowa) refusal of induction.

Arrests

Ohio—Daniel M. Swartzentruber

### Released from prison

- 3-28-60 Richard G. Keene (Good time)
- 4-22-60 Frank Satterwhite (Discharged from Army)
- 5-20-60 Eroseanna Robinson (Unconditional)

### Currently imprisoned

Allenwood, Pa.—Levi L. Hershberger, Eli J. Miller, Jacob Weaver Nolt  
 Danbury, Conn.—William W. Hart, Jr.  
 Milan, Mich.—Joe S. Bonntreager  
 Tallahassee, Fla.—Hubert Dexine Sprinkle  
 Terminal Island, Calif.—William A. Kariakin  
 Institution not verified—Robert E. McGrath

(Total number of C.O.'s convicted of Selective Service violations since 1948 to date, 353. This is a minimum number; Jehovah's witnesses and Muslims are not included, and we miss a few.)

## 1960 civil defense honor roll

They refused shelter and were jailed or fined. New York City—Glenn Athern, Karl Bissinger, Robert Blossom, Ele Calkins, Carl Einhorn, Zita Fearon, James R. Fisher, Thomas H. Franz III, James B. Gavin, Peter Giffen, Leonard Glaser, Peter S. Graham, Horace Jenkins, Augusta Kroll, Ann Leggett, Diana Lewis, Jerome Martin, Donna Mendleblatt, Ann Morrisett, Doris Rau, Sylvian Rudolph, Martin Segal, Constance M. Sattler, Lucia Shapiro, Samuel J. Singer, John White, Laurence Wilson, David Wyland. Spring Valley, N. Y.—Ruth Best, Maus Darling, Barbara McCallum, Helen Smiley, Lee Stern, Paul Williams. Princeton, N. J.—Gary Laison, Steve Lerman.

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